



American Society of Landscape Architects

COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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WASHINGTON REPORT..... february 1960

1. **NARRATIVE OUTLINE:** February was a busy month, entirely spent in Washington. Mrs. Eleanor Williams was employed on February 5th, to perform the many secretarial and administrative jobs accumulating in the office. She worked gallantly, often after hours, one Saturday to get out a special mailing. Hence it was with real regret that we received, on the last day of the month, notice of her intention to leave. By mutual consent, the date of March 4th was set for this sad event, after which we shall have to start looking again for a "Jill-of-all-skills".

2. **LIAISON AND ASSISTANCE WITHIN ASLA:** a. One of the most needed jobs, one of preparing letters of appreciation to all those having pledged to the Washington Development Fund, was completed and sent to Committee Chairman EUGENE MARTINI for signature. Albeit a form letter, we hope it did the job, also including a "status of account" for verification by each donor.

b. **Correspondence:** Many and varied, much of it stemming from the January Report to the Membership. Some regarding Annual meetings of 1960 and '61, New York World's Fair of '64. Lots of good information, some of which included elsewhere in this report.

c. **Chapter Secretaries:** You were included in this mailing primarily to pass on to your respective Chapters, by Newsletter or other means, what cooks in Washington, plus a few news items (see below). Equally important is an urgent REQUEST TO ALL OF YOU, to place this office on the mailing list of whatever in the way of a Newsletter, Bulletin you get out (Northern California calls theirs "Vitis Vine" or the grapevine). Object of keeping this office informed, especially of your meeting dates and places, is that your Field Secretary, should he happen to be travelling, might arrange his schedule so as to be in attendance at one or more Chapter meetings enroute. Would be glad of your comments and suggestions on this. "Spot-news" items which follow may be lifted, in whole or in part, for your own Newsletters:

(1) The announcement of the IFLA Congress in Amsterdam, 20-22 June, showed a fee of f 150. with the "f" looking like Pounds, Sterling. (No such character on this typewriter.) This would really be a registration fee. It may have scared some away, if we are to judge by the number of reservations received so far. Mr. Ruyters, of the travel service handling American Reservations, assures me that the "f" stands for Dutch Guilders, making the total amount only forty dollars, U.S. (better, at least!) He added "I ought to know. I'm a Dutchman myself." A tempting ASLA Tour leaves New York on 28 May, taking in the Congress and back on 27 June, just in time for the ASLA Annual Meeting at the Waldorf. For further details write Waters' Travel Service, 1716 H Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.



Coffee break at the January Trustees' meeting: Secretary ELDRIDGE LOVELACE, President NORMAN NEWTON, Vice President JOHN SIMONDS, Treasurer GEORGE YARWOOD.

*In view of my having presented a briefing to the Board of Trustees in late January, report for that month was sent only to the Committee on Professional Service. This time, however, the distribution has been broadened to include all officers, Trustees, Chapter Secretaries and those (not otherwise included) who have pledged \$500. or more to the Washington Fund.

DID YOU NOTICE THE ENVELOPE?...JUST DEVELOPED FOR SENDING PRESS RELEASES...TO ATTRACT JADED JOURNALISTIC EYES!

(2) Baltimore Board of Education is looking for a landscape architect to replace SANFORD SEVEL (A), going to Florida. Copies of announcement enclosed for all Chapter Secretaries.

(3) THEODORE OSMUNDSON, JR., (M) Trustee from the Northern California Chapter, has been invited to write an article on landscape architecture for the Bulletin of the San Francisco AIA Chapter, to be distributed at the national AIA meet there in April. A significant quote, which all landscape architects should take to heart:

"Participation in civic affairs is a healthy thing for landscape architects and architects alike, for the design of cities will take practical, political decisions in which the design professions should be intimately involved and responsible."

(4) MEADE PALMER (F) exemplifies TED's precepts, at the State level. MEADE is president of the Virginia Citizens Planning Association, an aggressive organization with a broad spectrum of activities, from establishing scholarships for planning students to fighting billboards at the State legislature. One excellent contribution: a "Planning Commissioner's Handbook", designed to give the new appointee to a planning commission perspective in his office. Copies of this may be obtained for 25¢ from Virginia Citizen's Planning Association, P.O. Box 34, Richmond 19, Virginia.

(5) JOHN RYAN (M) reports that the Senate Education Committee, New York legislature, gave a "Do Pass" to our registration bill S-1176 on 9 February. It is now in the Senate Finance Committee, awaiting word about the Budget. Its twin, A-2047 is in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Characteristic of the thoroughness with which the New York and Upstate New York Chapters are jointly waging the campaign is the production of a handsome "kit" in a substantial transparent plastic folder, containing information about the profession and the bill itself. Quite appropriately, DAVID LEVINE (M) of New York City is the new Chairman of the ASLA Committee on Professional Registration, succeeding GEORGE HUNTINGTON (M) of California.

(6) DESIGN CONTRACTS for independent offices was the subject of an information request by a member. (See appended report.)

(7) For your "COMING EVENTS" Column: 26th National Planning Conference, Miami Beach, 22-26 May 1960 (for details write American Society Planning Officials, 1313 E. 60th Street, Chicago 37, Ill.) and XXVth Congress of the International Federation for Housing and Planning, 28 May-3 June 1960 San Juan, P.R. (Info. from ASPO or write direct to Headquarters (IFHP) #2, Alexanderstraat, The Hague, Netherlands.)

d. The field secretary was happy to attend a well-attended and well-conducted meeting of the Potomac Chapter on the 18th, held jointly with the (Washington) Arts Club. Chapter President MYRON HENDEE (M) has arranged to hold the next meeting right here in the Board Room adjacent to ASLA Field Headquarters in the Union Trust Building, Tuesday evening, March 29. An inspection of the office itself will follow, with coffee and doughnuts yet! All ASLA-ers happening to be in the vicinity cordially invited.

3. LIAISON OUTSIDE A.S.L.A. Keeping track of congressional bills daily, joined the Lion's Club of Washington, host club for over sixty Lion's Clubs in the area, started a ten-weeks evening course in electronic data processing and other office automation, both without cost to ASLA, of course.

a. Close touch with A.I.A.: On 2d had conferences with Polly Shackleton, Director for Professional Affairs, who also does legislative scanning and edits newsletter called MEMO; with George Pettingill, Librarian and competition director; Winfield Rankin, Administrative Secretary. On the 8th had lunch with Executive Director Edmund Purves, discussing competitions and other interprofessional matters.

b. American Institute of Planners. On the 12th, attended (with ASLA representative ALBE MUNSON) an evening meeting of the Research Committee, Professional Advisory Council on Community Development for the U.S. Jr. Chamber of Commerce, which was held at AIP headquarters here. Aim of the Council is to support planning by setting up fellowships for promising students, at the same time coordinating activities of the winners along productive lines of planning research. While we, as a sponsoring organization, are represented on the Advisory Committee by MUNSON (M) and LAWRENCE LINNARD (F), the fellowship (selection) Committee is composed of one architect, two planners, and a traffic engineer. Suggestion was made in writing to the manager, John Meek, in Tulsa, that next year's Committee would appear to be better balanced if it were to include a landscape architect! The meeting mentioned was most informative, presided over by Charles Blessing, president of AIP, included representatives of a wide variety of interests, including a vice president of American Motors, who are picking up the tab.

c. National Capital Downtown Committee. This citizens-business group has recently employed Knox Banner as director in its efforts to re-vitalize downtown Washington. Had lunch with him on the 4th, suggested the reasons for having a landscape architect on his staff or as a consultant.

d. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission. Continued collaboration in regard to announcement, conditions of the competition, etc. Staff of the Commission have been most co-operative, have incorporated virtually all our suggestions verbatim. Announcement to be included with mailing of next Bulletin, around 1 April.

e. Highway Research Board. Through the kind offices of WILBUR SIMONSON (F), had conferences with Messrs. Bergraff (director), Wray and Orland (editor). The latter is and will be extremely helpful regarding techniques of printing and publication.

f. D.C. Council of Architectural and Engineering Societies. Attended annual luncheon for presentation of awards on the 25th along with 8 other members of the Potomac Chapter. A.S.L.A. is a member of the Council, which includes 29 societies.

g. Better Highways Information Foundation. Upon invitation, represented the Society at the organizational luncheon of this newly formed group on the 26th. Brought into being by the American Road Builders Association, BHIF aims to "sell" better highways to the American people, hopes to obtain substantial support from equipment manufacturers, other interested concerns; have employed Ketchum, McLeod and Grove, public relations firm. In response to my questioning, they profess to coordinate with, and not duplicate or compete with, such existing bodies as the Highway Research Board.

h. Urban Renewal Administration. In response to a request from an ASLA member, had conferences with Tracy Augur, Assistant Commissioner for Urban Planning Assistance, and Harold Merrill, both formerly ASLA-ers, and with Earl von Storch, Director, Planning and Engineering Branch. Methods of letting contracts for professional services were discussed, as well as the division of planning function between State agencies and independent offices. See appended report, copies of which are available on request.

i. Urban Land Institute. Lunch on the 10th with Max Wehrly, director, and GABRIEL HARMAN (M) whose office has been engaged to administer the Research Study on Innovations in residential subdivision, community planning and development, announcement of which was published in the 15 February Bulletin.

j. The Congress. (Current legislation.)

(1) HR 10 (Keogh) Voluntary pension plans by the unemployed. (See enclosed leaflet.) Passage in this session begins to appear probable.

(2) S. 1843, setting up a classification for professional ratings in Federal employ, but omitting architects and landscape architects. No action to date, but being carefully watched by AIA and ourselves.

(3) Series of Federal classifications in "Urban Planning", defining functions inclusive of some aspects of landscape architecture.

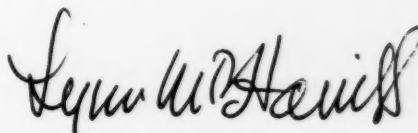
4. ADMINISTRATION. a. Equipment purchased: Typewriter, IBM Standard; Verifax "Viscount", slightly used at a \$75. reduction; Norelco Dictating System; Colorkode Filing system; two 4-drawer steel filing cabinets (from A.P.C.A.) at \$25. each.

b. Expenditures - 1 Jan. - 29 - Feb. 1960.....Status in relation to Budget.

Plant (equipment, incl. petty cash)	\$1,058.73
Salaries, services	3,356.65
Rent	300.00
Utilities, incl. Tel. & Tel.	42.99
Printing, supplies, postage	579.19
Travel, Transport.	155.57
Hospitality	25.00
	<u>5,418.13</u>
Budgeted for period	<u>5,000.00</u>
Amount over budget	<u>\$ 418.13</u>

5. EXPENDITURE OF TIME, FIELD SECRETARY

Government liaison	34 hrs.
(review of legislation and contact with agencies)	
Interprofessional liaison	16 hrs.
Intra-professional liaison	88½ hrs.
Professional service	15 hrs.
Public relations and publicity	6½ hrs.
Office administration and reports	81½ hrs.



Lynn M.F. Harriss
Field Secretary

Distribution T-O	(24)
" PS	(10) incl. Counsel
" C	(18)
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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR URBAN RENEWAL, COMMUNITY PLANNING AGENCIES

A question has been raised by an A.S.L.A. member with respect to the procedures used by State and local agencies in obtaining services that landscape architects are trained to do, in the fields of urban renewal, urban redevelopment, and community planning. Specifically, information was wanted as to (a) whether the federal Housing Act or its implementing regulations required local Redevelopment Commissions to let professional contracts on the basis of competitive bidding instead of negotiation, and (b) whether state planning offices, using the 50% matching funds available under Section 701 for planning assistance to municipalities under 50,000, were permitted to do the planning work themselves instead of calling in private firms, such as landscape architects.

In answer to the first question, professional contracts are not required to be let on the basis of competitive bidding. On the contrary, the URA-FHA Manual of Policies and Requirements for Local Agencies, Book II, Part 4, Chapter 4, Section 5* reads in part as follows:

"AGREEMENTS WITH PRIVATE CONTRACTORS

It is neither required nor recommended by the Urban Renewal Administration that contracts for professional services be let by competitive bidding, unless necessary under State or local law. In selecting a contractor to perform such services, the Local Public Agency should consider, among other factors, the education, experience, and reputation of the contractor, the facilities at his disposal, his other contemporaneous commitments, and his familiarity with the objectives and requirements of the Title I program."

In response to the second question, the Urban Renewal Administration seems reluctant to tell States how to handle their design work, on the basis that different states have different laws governing this. Therefore, according to the provisions of the Housing Act of 1959, there is no positive way of keeping a state from doing all its own planning, at least from the Federal level. Assistant Commissioner Tracy Augur reported however that of the 34 states so assisted (under Section 701) at least 25 employ independent consultants extensively, and of the \$8.5 million in grants to date, representing some \$17. million in work, a substantial portion has gone to private consultant-contractors. He feels that there is some validity to the view that the initial stages of indoctrination and stimulus to the smaller cities in recognizing and defining their planning needs, and the latter, continuing phases of surveillance and minor assistance from time to time, may best be done by public agencies, whereas the median, or design, stage, may best be done by private consulting firms.

For those who may be interested, we have a limited number of copies of the pamphlet Provisions of the Housing Act of 1959 with respect to The Urban Planning Assistance Program. They are available to ASLA members and affiliates on request from the Washington office.

* To be shortly replaced by Urban Renewal Manual, now at the printers, but which may soon be available. Those interested should write for prices, order blanks, etc. to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

